

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 99-068
DATE: August 18, 1999 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms: Heavy rainfall associated with severe summer storms that struck the state on August 11-12 and August 15 caused street flooding, sewer backup and basement flooding. The additional rainfall compounded problems with high water tables as excess precipitation caused flooding of infrastructure and homes.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: As of August 17, Bismarck/Burleigh Emergency Management has received 113 calls from homeowners and rental property managers reporting water damages to their homes. These damages occurred as a result of heavy rainfall on August 12 that totaled 6.54 inches. The heavy rainfall impacted basements and major intersections. Damages reported include water seepage, carpet damages, sump pump failure, and sheetrock and insulation damages in most of the 113 homes. Reports indicated that about one-half dozen homes had possible damage to furnaces, water heaters and electrical systems. One report indicated that a basement on Capitol Avenue filled with seven feet of water. Local officials are concerned about mold problems in impacted homes.

A significant mudslide occurred this past weekend on N.D. Highway 1804; Burleigh County Public Works crews are addressing the problem. Burleigh County officials also reported damage to 12 road sites.

A National Weather Service (NWS) damage assessment team has determined that winds of approximately 150 miles per hour (mph) occurred on August 15 when a tornado ripped through portions of southeastern North Dakota, including Logan and Ransom Counties. The tornado was both long-tracked and wide; the length was approximately 30 miles, from near Litchville to north of Lisbon, and its width measured one-quarter of a mile. The tornado remained primarily in open country. However, several farmsteads were affected with barns and service buildings destroyed. No injuries have been reported. The NWS reported that warnings were issued 10 to 20 minutes in advance of the tornado.

The August 15 tornado damaged five farmstead in Logan County, destroying three barns, a vacant farm house, an airplane and airplane hangar and grain bin. Winds also caused structural damages to other buildings on the farmsteads.

In Ransom County, the tornado struck three farms, destroying four barns and two machine sheds. Four steel bins were damaged, and several power poles were downed. Trees were uprooted or damaged, and corn, sunflower and wheat fields

were either flattened or shredded. Up to 40 straw bales were lost to the high winds, and equipment stored in buildings was damaged.

The Stark County area also experienced severe summer weather on August 15 with high winds and baseball-sized hail. Damages from wind, hail and heavy rain occurred to buildings, windows, vehicles, yards and farm crops. Damage appeared to be concentrated on the west side of buildings. Many vehicles had broken windshields and hail dents. The heaviest hit area was on the north side Belfield, along I-94 to the north side of Dickinson, extending north to the Manning area in Dunn County. Some areas reported a 50 percent crop loss.

Benson County officials report that high winds and heavy rains on August 11-12 caused basements to flood in the southeastern portion of the county and flattened crops throughout the county. The Wood Lake area reported rainfall in excess of four inches, and reports from east of Warwick indicated rainfall measured six inches. One residence at Black Tiger Bay, along the Devils Lake shoreline, was isolated by flash flooding.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,447.12 feet on August 18.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the previous report.

STATE: In addition to the previous report, the N.D. Highway Patrol provided law enforcement assistance after tornadoes struck Logan and Ransom County.

FEDERAL: National Weather Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel also monitored storm conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Church groups and neighbors assisted residents in Logan and Ransom Counties with cleanup work.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Burleigh County Commission issued a disaster declaration on August 17 because of the storm damages experienced on August 12. The mayor of Bismarck also signed a disaster declaration.

Ransom and Logan County officials provided assistance with recovery work associated with the tornadoes. In Ransom County, Cass County Electric crews replaced downed power poles in an effort to restore electricity.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None reported at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None reported at this time.

9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director